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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 5 October 1992 at 5 p.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Mr. YENEL (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, recalled that, in its resolution 47/1 of 22 September 1992, the General Assembly had considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations, and had decided that it should apply for membership in the Organization, and should not participate in the work of the General Assembly. Since the current meeting was the Economic and Social Council's first since that resolution had been adopted, it was appropriate for the Council to take a similar decision. He suggested that the matter should be considered at a formal meeting of the Council within the week.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said it was unfortunate that the representative of Turkey had not consulted the Organization of the Islamic Conference, of which Benin was also a member, before speaking on its behalf.

Mr. KHALIKOV (Russian Federation) noted that the decisions of the General Assembly applied only to the Assembly. Accordingly, General Assembly resolution 47/1 was not relevant to the continued participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in the work of the Council.

Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) suggested that the representative of Turkey should address a letter to the President of the Council suggesting that the question should be considered under an existing agenda item or proposing a new item for that purpose.

Ms. FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria) said that there was no basis for the automatic succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in United Nations bodies; any participation by Serbia and Montenegro in the

(Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, Austria)

current session of the Council was without prejudice to future decisions by the appropriate United Nations bodies.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) supported the statement by the representative of Turkey.

Mr. MARKS (United States of America) endorsed the remarks by the representatives of Austria and Italy and welcomed the suggestion made by the representative of Turkey.

Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland) agreed that the presence of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) at the current meeting was without prejudice to its presence at future meetings of the Council.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that the Community held that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was not the successor State to the former Yugoslavia. With respect to the current meeting, he felt that the representatives of Italy and Turkey had indicated a sensible procedure that would allow the Council to proceed with its substantive work while reserving its position on the Yugoslav question.

Mr. ZIPANJEVAC (Yugoslavia) expressed surprise and regret that the issue of his delegation's status on the Economic and Social Council had been raised. The General Assembly's decision to exclude the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from its deliberations did not affect that country's participation in the work of other United Nations bodies.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the Economic and Social Council on Enhancing International Cooperation for Development: the Role of the United Nations System

The PRESIDENT reported that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the Economic and Social Council on Enhancing International Cooperation for Development had met on several occasions during September and October 1992, at which time several delegations had submitted position papers. The Working Group had asked the Secretariat to prepare a compendium of the position

(The President)

papers. That compendium was contained in the informal document before the Council. If he heard no objection he would take it that the Council wished to transmit the compendium prepared by the Secretariat to the General Assembly for appropriate consideration.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that his delegation could not agree to the compendium's transmittal to the General Assembly, since the papers it contained were in English only. Benin was quite willing to be flexible while the document was considered informally. However, as the Council was now meeting formally, it must follow the rules: all documents transmitted to another organ of the United Nations must be in all official languages.

The PRESIDENT assured the representative of Benin that he fully concurred with his statement, and that before further steps were taken the documents would be translated and issued in all official languages.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that even in the Working Group sessions his delegation would have preferred to have the documents at least in both working languages.

Mr. LEMERLE (France) supported the representative of Benin. A delegation was entitled to insist that documents should be provided in its working language.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said he could fully understand the points made by the representatives of Benin and France; he nevertheless hoped that the Council could avoid deferring the matter to a subsequent meeting by agreeing in principle to transmit the document so long as no protest was received from delegations following its issuance in the other languages.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that the objections of Benin and France were very germane, as such an important document should be available in all languages. The mere fact that another meeting might have to be held to approve transmission in all language versions was immaterial to the discussion of the issues, and the proper procedure should be followed.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that his delegation had no wish to slow the Council's work, but wished that work to be well done. Therefore, every delegation should have the documentation in its preferred working language so that it could take part fully in the debate.

Ms. TOMKINSON (Australia) said that she understood the concern expressed regarding the availability of the compendium in all official languages but noted that in the Working Group emphasis had been placed on the need to move forward rapidly. As many of the papers in the compendium had been with the Secretariat for some time, it was possible that translation was already in progress, and she would welcome information as to when it might be complete.

Mr. TRAXLER (Italy) said that he supported the proposal made by the representative of the United Kingdom and hoped that the representative of Benin would be able to accept it. He also wanted to know when the translation into the other official languages would be ready.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that, as the document concerned was an informal Secretariat paper it had not been sent for translation. In view of the length of the document, translation into the other official languages would probably take several weeks.

Mr. JOMAA (Observer for Tunisia) said that he fully supported the position taken by the representatives of Benin and France and endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. KHALIKOV (Russian Federation) agreed that it was important for the documents to be available in all languages. However, parts of the text had already been sent for translation earlier in the Council's substantive session, and perhaps the translation process would not take as long as the Secretary had suggested.

Ms. YANG Yanyi (China) agreed that the document should be available in all official languages in order to facilitate the work of the Council.

Mrs. MENENDEZ (Spain) said that, although she agreed with the need for translation, she supported the proposal put forward by the representative of the United Kingdom as a way of speeding up the process.

The PRESIDENT said that consideration of the item would be resumed once the compendium was available in all official languages.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.